

Colonel Goethals, Panama Canal Chief, May Be Made a General as Reward For His Efficient Work



For his splendid work in building the Panama canal Colonel George W. Goethals, chairman of the isthmus canal commission, may be advanced to a full generalship in the army, with title and rank corresponding to that in the navy now held by Admiral George Dewey. The promotion would be for life and not subject him to retirement for any cause. Prominent among men who favor conferring this honor is Representative James R. Mann of Illinois, minority leader of the house, who, with a party of other congressmen, recently made an inspection of the canal zone. Mr. Mann is enthusiastic, almost extravagant, in his praise of the canal chairman. He declares that the very least reward that can be bestowed is that of general for life in the army. This honor of enjoying the rank of full general has fallen to only four other men in the history of the American army—Washington, Grant, Sherman and Sheridan.

SALT LAKE KIDNAPING OF UTAH PRISONER

Salt Lake, Dec. 14.—While his attorneys were arguing before Judge Looftbrow their right to appeal from his decision denying their client's petition for a writ of habeas corpus, M. F. Vaincourt, a Colorado deputy sheriff, assisted by Axel Steele, chief criminal deputy sheriff, J. C. Sharp, forcibly took Robert W. Davis, the petitioner, from the court room, hustled him into a waiting automobile, which much resembled the sheriff's, and up to an early hour this morning no track of Davis or the Colorado officer had been obtained by the attorneys.

Within ten minutes after Judge Looftbrow had denied the application for the writ, Chief Justice Frick of the supreme court, had signed an order commanding Vaincourt to produce Davis in court, and within thirty minutes a warrant charging the deputy with contempt of court had been signed by the same justice. This warrant was yesterday afternoon wired to the sheriffs of all the counties through which Vaincourt would pass on his way to Colorado, regardless of which route he took.

Davis is charged with failure to provide for his wife, a felony under the law of Colorado. He was for years a resident of Utah, being superintendent of the Marsac mill in Park City and later superintendent of the Ontario mill in the same camp.

A week ago Davis was arrested as a fugitive from justice. Last Tuesday Deputy Sheriff Vaincourt arrived with requisition papers on the governor of Utah asking for the return of Davis to Denver. The requisition was honored and Davis was turned over to the officer by Sheriff Sharp.

Vaincourt started to leave town, but was stopped by attorneys for Davis, who applied for a writ of habeas corpus in the district court. That was Thursday afternoon yesterday morning the application for the writ was denied by Judge Looftbrow.

When the court rendered its decision Attorney E. A. Walton, William M. McRae and E. A. Rogers, representing Davis, gave notice of appeal to the supreme court, had their bond on appeal and order for a stay of execution already prepared, but the court held that there was no appeal from its ruling. It was while the attorneys were arguing this point that Davis was removed from the room and spirited away.

The attorneys filed an application for a writ of habeas corpus and secured at once an order directing Sheriff Joseph C. Sharp to deliver Davis into the hands of the court.

Armed with this, Messrs. Walton, Rogers and McRae repaired in great haste to the sheriff's office and served the order. Sheriff Sharp received them cordially and after elaborate examination of the order, imparted the information that he had no such prisoner as Robert W. Davis and had not been his keeper for a matter of forty-eight hours, having turned him over to the Denver official.

It is presumed that the Denver officer took his prisoner to some point north of Salt Lake and boarded a train for Ogden and from that point went east over the Union Pacific.

ZION MAN INVENTS AIR BRAKE DEVICE

Salt Lake, Dec. 14.—A new air-brake device for railroad trains has been invented by F. Y. Dibble, a local engineer, and has drawn the attention of H. W. Belnap, chief inspector of safety appliances of the interstate commerce commission, according to information received here.

During the recent visit to this city of the commission, Peter Grooms, a member of the commission, witnessed a demonstration of Mr. Dibble's invention—called a triple valve air brake—at 35 West Third South street. So impressed was he with the safety feature of the contrivance that he wrote to Mr. Belnap, setting forth the operation and new advantages of the invention.

Mr. Grooms, in writing, said that the device made it possible for an engineer to "recharge a train line without having to release, which would do away with the use of handbrakes and retainers in descending grades, as well as to prevent possibility of trains starting to run away when releasing to recharge."

Edward J. Harris, master mechanic of the Rock Island lines, Kansas City, also recently investigated the new invention, and before leaving Salt Lake, said he would recommend that the Dibble air brake device be given a demonstration on one of the trains of the system, under Mr. Dibble's personal supervision.

Arrangements are now being made to give the brake a practical test on the Emigration Canyon railroad, where the grades are such as to bring the appliance under a severe strain. The test will be made next week.

DR. A. C. WHERRY BIDS FOR DETECTIVE'S JOB

Salt Lake, Dec. 14.—Dr. Arthur C. Wherry, a dentist, with offices in the McCormick block, qualified for a position on the local police force last night, according to Captain John Hempel. Dr. Wherry walked out of the Masonic temple at 10 o'clock to find his automobile had been stolen. He reported the theft to the police and took a street car for his home. As the car turned from State into First avenue, he saw his automobile coasting toward State street. He jumped from the moving car, boarded his own automobile and drove it to the police station, carrying as passengers the young men who had appropriated it for a two hours' joy ride.

The boys were given a stiff sweating by Chief Grant and were allowed to go after they had promised to pay the damages to the car, resulting from their inexperienced operation, and to lend their help in stopping the operations of the youths who have been making a practice of stealing automobiles for joy riding.

HOPES SANTA WILL NOT FORGET THEM

Salt Lake, Dec. 14.—How the Bingham strike brings tearful anticipation of a Christmas without Santa Claus to four little children of the camp was pathetically explained in a letter received yesterday by Postmaster A. L. Thomas.

Addressed to "Mr. Salt Lake Postmaster," the letter was written by a little Bingham girl, asking Mr. Thomas to tell Santa Claus, if he saw that patron of the holiday season, to bring gifts to the little ones who feared that they would have no "Christmas on account of their fatherless."

